(c) the details of the funds allocated for National Highways passing through Bihar during the last three years, road-wise and work-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Majority of National Highways in Bihar declared during Ninth Five Year Plan and Tenth Five Year Plan suffered from inherent deficiencies such as inadequate lane width, pavement thickness, poor geometries, weak and narrow bridges and culverts, missing links etc. The removal of these deficiences and bringing these roads to NH standard requires huge investment which is carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and *intqr-se* priority of works. However, these roads are maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available resources.

(c) Funds are allocated State-wise and not separately for different National Highways. The details of funds allocated for State of Bihar for carrying out original work and maintenance and repair works of National Highways during the last three years is given hereunder:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	NH (O)-Original works	M&R-Maintenance and Repair works
2003-2004	83.00	29.46
2004-2005	79.51	46.28
2005-2006	78.99	47.66

Funds allocated for NHs in MP

2996. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allotted for construction of new National Highways in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the amount of money allotted under the Central Road Fund to Madhya Pradesh in the past two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No separate allocation is made for new National Highways. Funds allocated for National

Highways (Original) works in Madhya Pradesh during 2004.-05 and 2005-06 were Rs. 83.00 crore and Rs. 74.00 crore respectively.

(b) Accruals (Allotment) under CRF for Madhya Pradesh during 2004-05 and 2005-06 were Rs. 52.04 crore and Rs. 93.23 crore respectively.

Nexus between NHAI and A.F. Ferguson & Co.

2997. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts were awarded by NHAI to dubious consultancy firms on exorbitant terms;

(b) whether A.F. Ferguson & Co. has been awarded contracts in the past by NHAI even though they were not L1;

(c) whether Government propose to order a CBI enquiry into the nexus betwen NHAI and A.F. Ferguson;

(d) whether Government propose to blacklist the company from future contracts as it is also exploiting its employees by not paying their statutory dues and is not issuing relieving certificates so as to prevent them from joining other organisations; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A consultancy contract for design, development and instalation of "Project Financial Management System" was awarded to M/s A.F. Ferguson & Co. under World Bank funded project as the firm scored highest marks both in financial and technical proposal evaluation.

A.F. Ferguson is also one of the three empanelled firms engaged for checking fee collection activity. Empaneiment was done on the basis of negotiation with L2 and L3 to accept the L1 rates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No such instance has came to the notice.

(e) Does not arise.